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THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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TM
ENTER: SAURON!
BYRNE & austin

Cyclops. Storm. Banshee. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, MUTANTS——feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the STRANGEST heroes of all!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE UNCANNY X-MEN!** TM

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VISIONS of DEATH!

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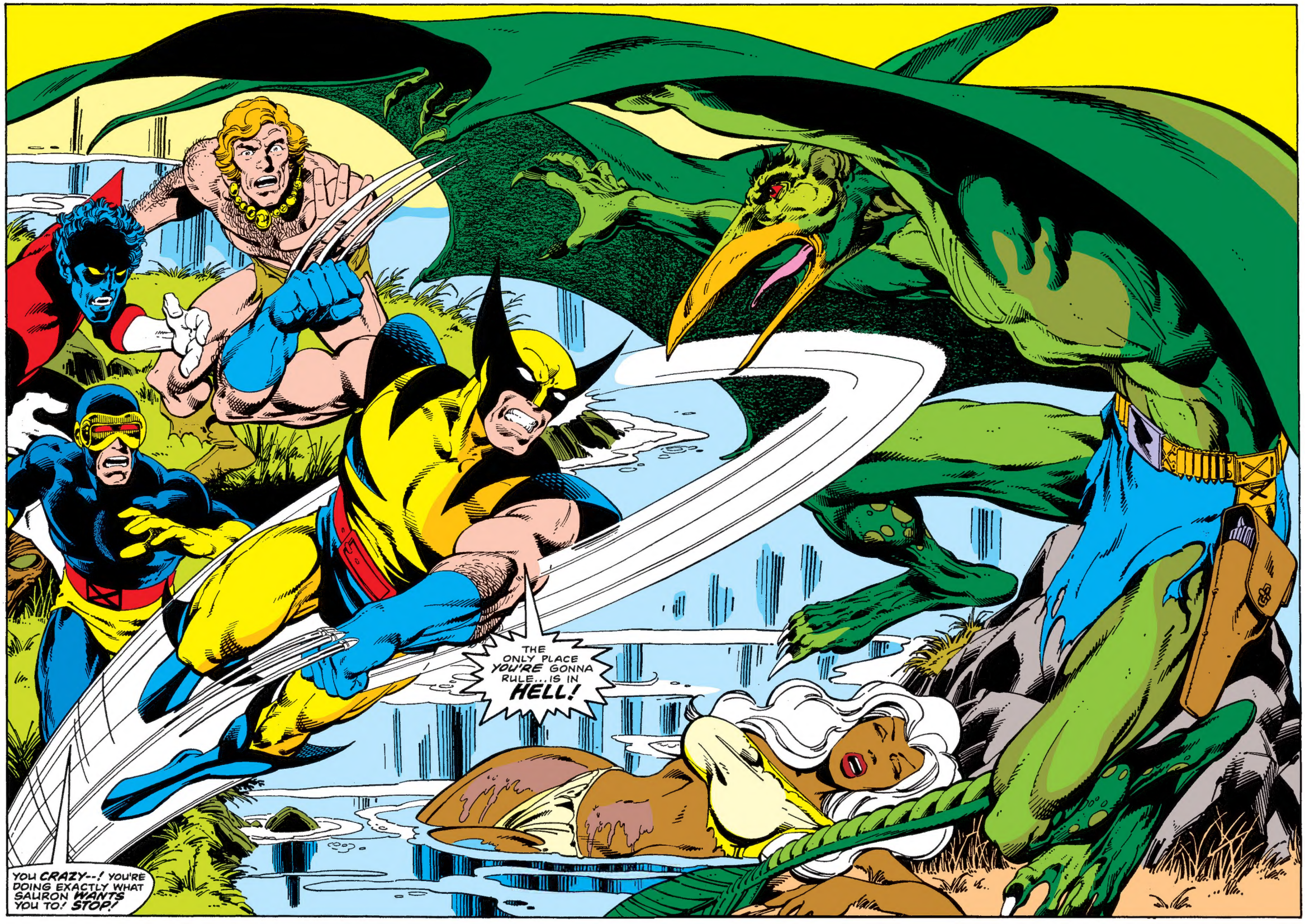

THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GONNA RULE...IS IN HELL!
YOU CRAZY--! YOU'RE DOING EXACTLY WHAT SAURON WANTS YOU TO! STOP!

YOU STOP, GUTLESS! THIS BARGAIN-BASEMENT RODAN JUST CHOPPED AN X-MAN--
-- AN' WOLVERINE'S GONNA MAKE HIM PAY FOR-- HEY!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR LEADER WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE, LITTLE MAN!

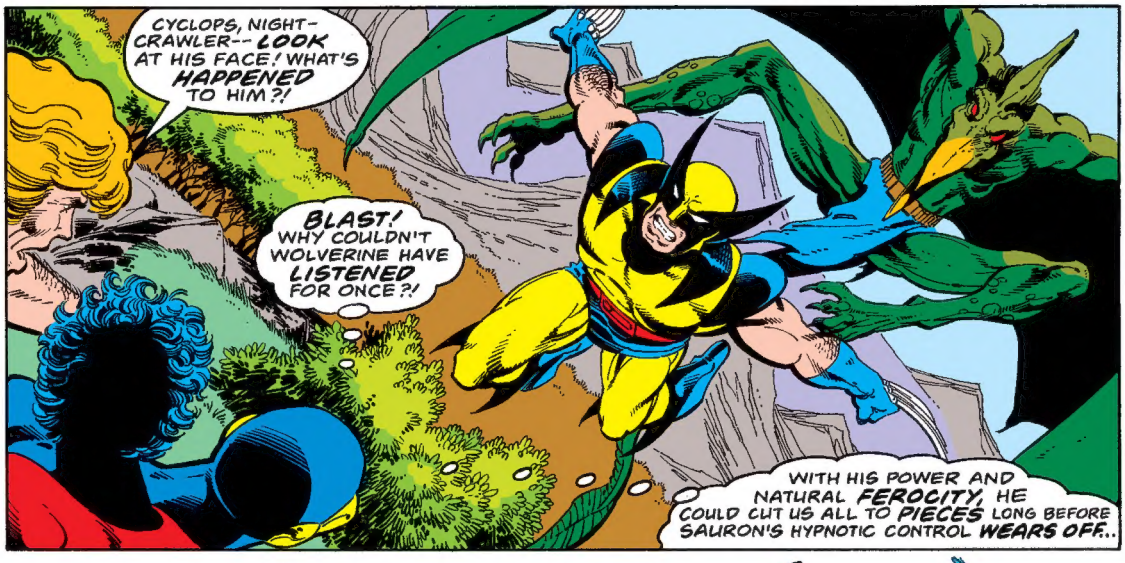
NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
GOTTA BUST FREE-- BUT HIS GRIP'S LIKE AN ICE-COLD VICE!
CRIPES! HIS EYES--

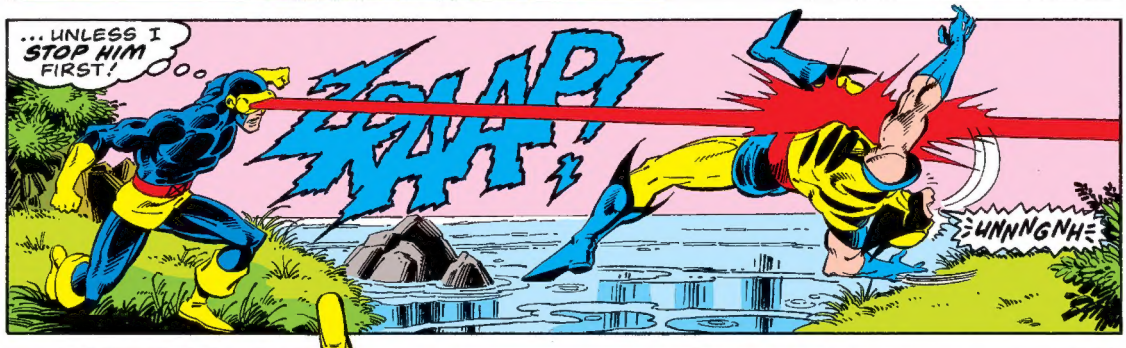
YOUR MIND-- YOUR VERY SOUL, MUTANT-- IS MINE!

QUICKLY X-MAN--LOOK AT YOUR 'FRIENDS'--
--AND SEE WHO IS TRULY THE ENEMY HERE.

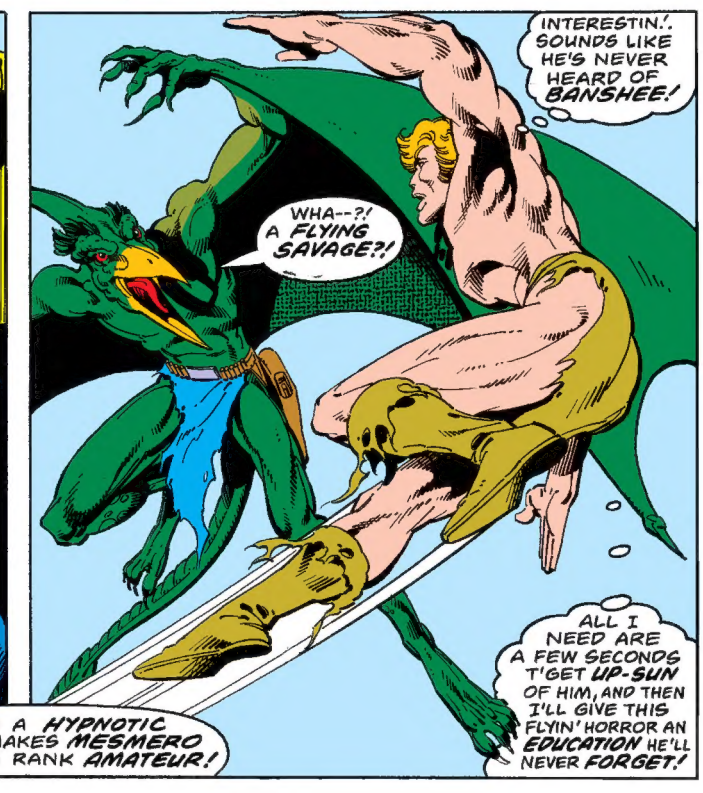
OH, NO! SAURON'S ZAPPED WOLVERINE JUST LIKE HE DID ANGEL THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT! *
UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, WOLVERINE DOESN'T SEE X-MEN ANYMORE...
* WAY BACK IN X-MEN #'S 60 & 61. --RESEARCHIN' ROG.

...JUST A TRIO OF WALKING NIGHTMARES!

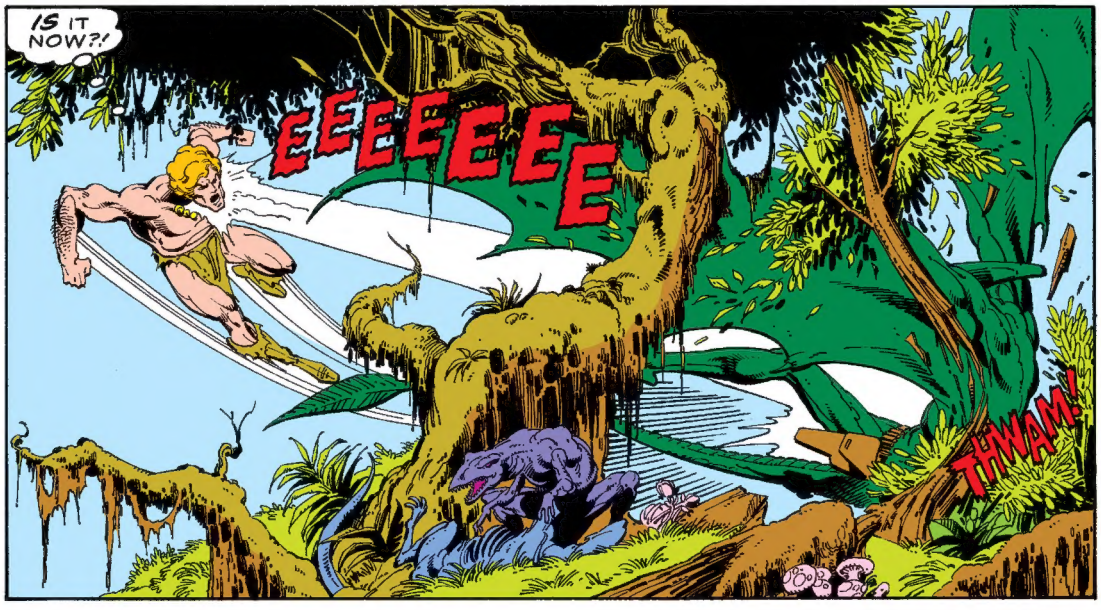

CYCLOPS, NIGHT-CRAWLER-- LOOK AT HIS FACE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?!
BLAST! WHY COULDN'T WOLVERINE HAVE LISTENED FOR ONCE?!
WITH HIS POWER AND NATURAL FEROCITY, HE COULD CUT US ALL TO PIECES LONG BEFORE SAURON'S HYPNOTIC CONTROL WEARS OFF..


...UNLESS I STOP HIM FIRST!
KOLAP!
KHT!
UNNNGNH

ARE YE MAD, MAN?! DID YE HAVE TO--?!
TRUST ME, BANSHEE-- I HAD TO. LOOK, I'VE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN...
...JUST GET AIRBORNE AFTER SAURON, AND DON'T LET HIM MAKE EYE-CONTACT WITH YOU!
HE HAS A HYPNOTIC ZAP THAT MAKES MESMERO LOOK LIKE A RANK AMATEUR!

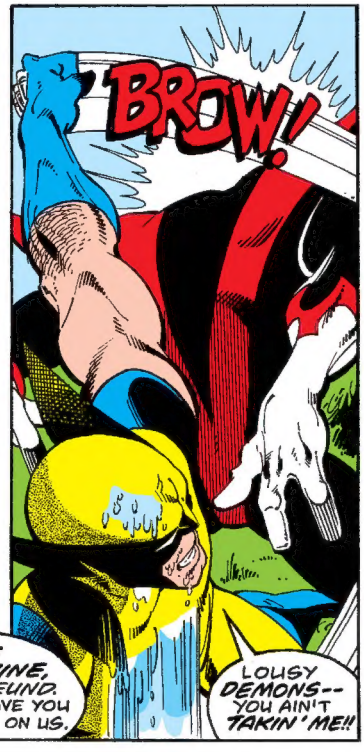

INTERESTIN'! SOUNDS LIKE HE'S NEVER HEARD OF BANSHEE!
WHA--?! A FLYING SAVAGE?!
ALL I NEED ARE A FEW SECONDS T'GET UP-SUN OF HIM, AND THEN I'LL GIVE THIS FLYIN' HORROR AN EDUCATION HE'LL NEVER FORGET!

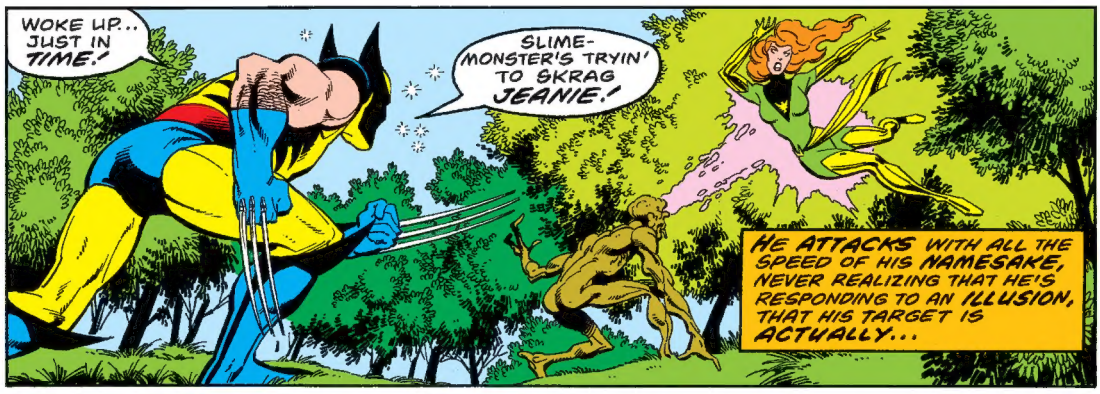
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, FOOL! MY STRENGTH ALONE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH--
--TO SMASH YOUR SCREECHING FORM TO A A BLOODY PULP!

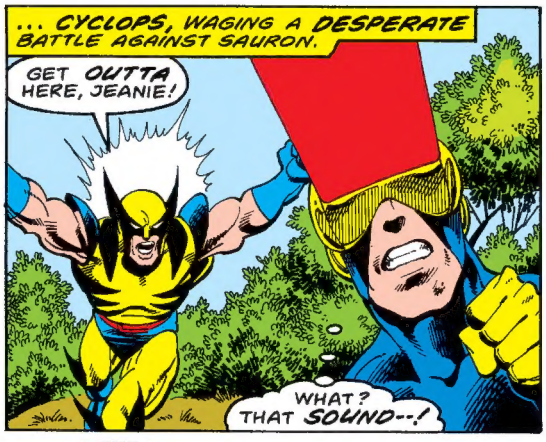

IS IT NOW?!
EEEEEEE
THWAM!

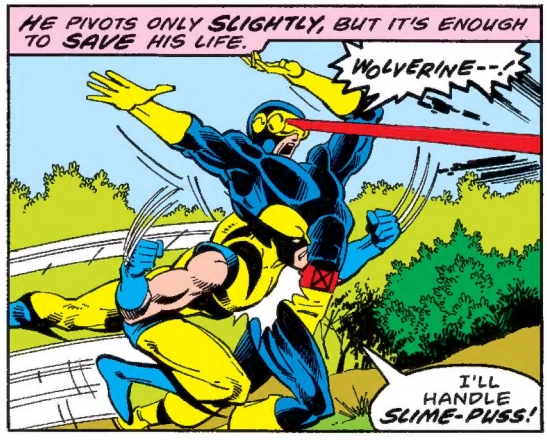
STAY HERE, NIGHT-CRAWLER!
MAKE SURE WOLVERINE AND STORM ARE OKAY.

AS YOU WISH, CYCLOPS.
RISE AND SHINE, MEIN FREUND. WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DROWNING ON US.


BROW!
LOUSY DEMONS-- YOU AIN'T TAKIN' ME!!

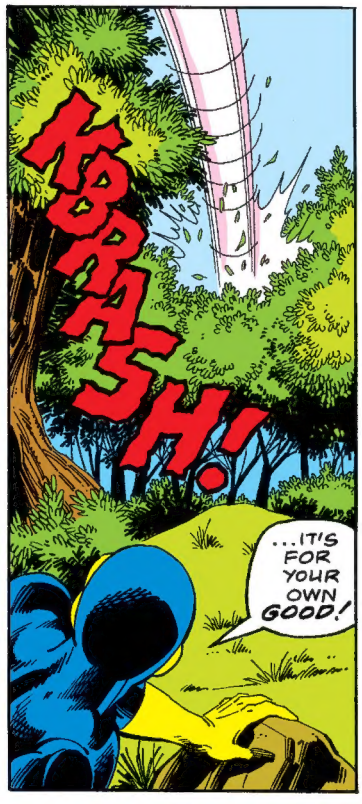

WOKE UP... JUST IN TIME!
SLIME-MONSTER'S TRYIN' TO SKRAG JEANIE!
HE ATTACKS WITH ALL THE SPEED OF HIS NAMESAKE, NEVER REALIZING THAT HE'S RESPONDING TO AN ILLUSION, THAT HIS TARGET IS ACTUALLY...

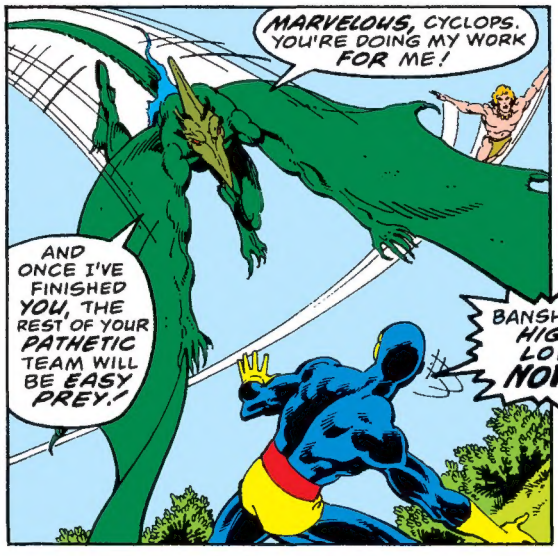

... CYCLOPS, WAGING A DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST SAURON.
GET OUTTA HERE, JEANIE!
WHAT? THAT SOUND--!

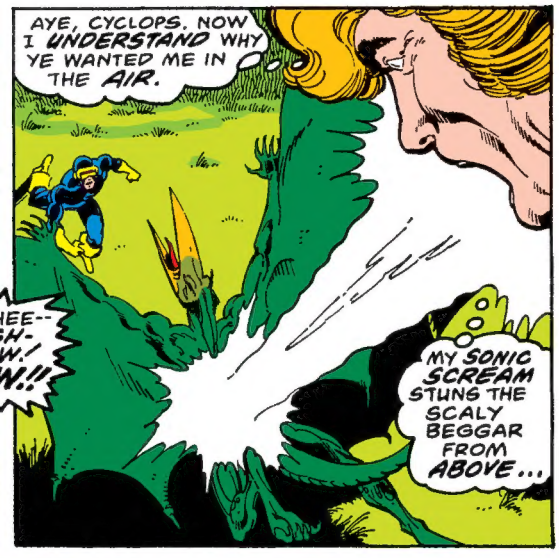

HE PIVOTS ONLY SLIGHTLY, BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO SAVE HIS LIFE.
WOLVERINE--!
I'LL HANDLE SLIME-PUSS!

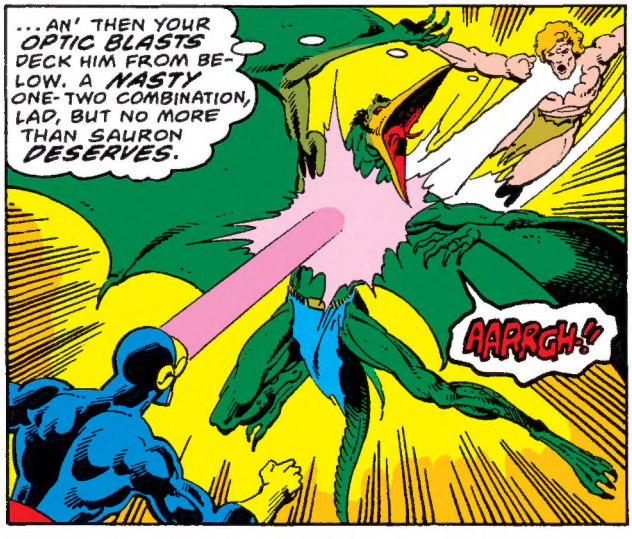
NO-- SOMETHING'S WRONG! I'M TALKIN' LIKE JEANIE'S ALIVE--
--BUT... SHE AIN'T!
HE'S-- HESITATING!

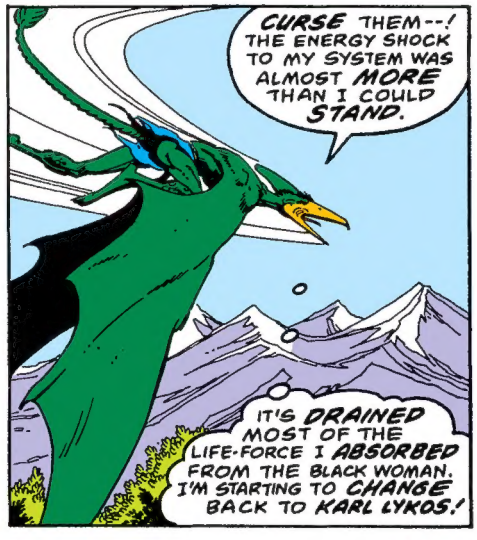
SHZRAK!
I HATE TO DO THIS, PAL, BUT AS THE SAYING GOES...

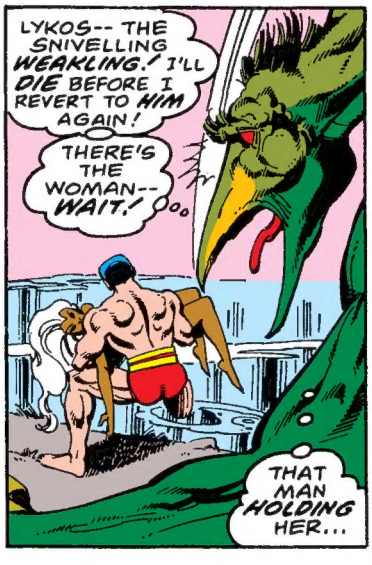

KBRASH!
...IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!


MARVELOUS, CYCLOPS. YOU'RE DOING MY WORK FOR ME!
AND ONCE I'VE FINISHED YOU, THE REST OF YOUR PATHETIC TEAM WILL BE EASY PREY!
BANSHEE-- HIGH-LOW! NOW!!


AYE, CYCLOPS. NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YE WANTED ME IN THE AIR.
MY SONIC SCREAM STUNS THE SCALY BEGGAR FROM ABOVE...


...AN' THEN YOUR OPTIC BLASTS DECK HIM FROM BELOW. A NASTY ONE-TWO COMBINATION, LAD, BUT NO MORE THAN SAURON DESERVES.
AARRGH!!


CURSE THEM--! THE ENERGY SHOCK TO MY SYSTEM WAS ALMOST MORE THAN I COULD STAND.
IT'S DRAINED MOST OF THE LIFE-FORCE I ABSORBED FROM THE BLACK WOMAN. I'M STARTING TO CHANGE BACK TO KARL LYKOS!


LYKOS-- THE SNIVELLING WEAKLING! I'LL DIE BEFORE I REVERT TO HIM AGAIN!
THERE'S THE WOMAN-- WAIT!
THAT MAN HOLDING HER...

...I SENSE POWER IN HIM... AS GREAT AS HERS!
STORM-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

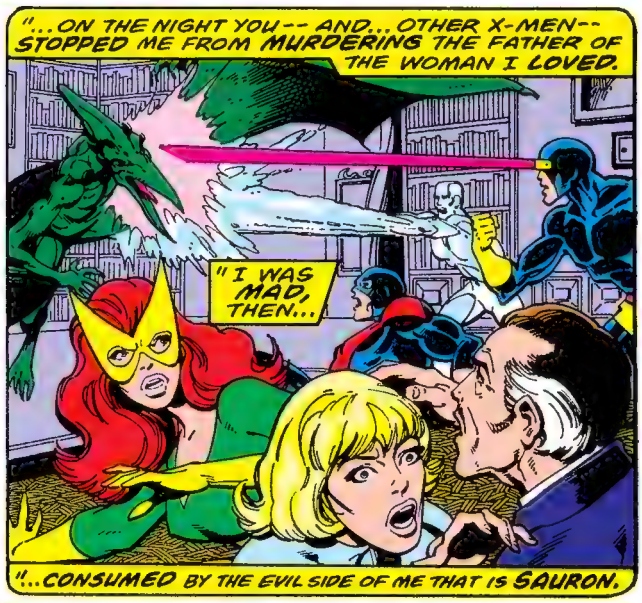
BE PROUD, MUTANT! YOUR POWER WILL MAKE SAURON INVINCIBLE!

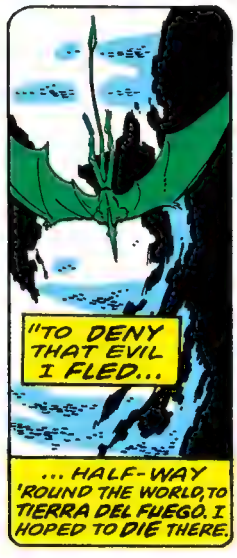
THE YOUNG RUSSIAN'S BODY STIFFENS IN SILENT AGONY AS HE FEELS HIS VERY LIFE BEING TORN FROM HIM...
COLOSSUS!
SAURON'S FEEDING OFF HIM, LIKE A LEECH!
SOMEWHERE IN PETER RASPUTIN'S BRAIN, A PSYCHIC RELAY CLOSES AND AN AWESOME PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION BEGINS.
>!?!<
COLOSSUS--CHANGE!
IN HIS PLACE IS THE ARMORED FORM OF COLOSSUS!
SKZKOW!
AND, AS CYCLOPS HAD HOPED, THE SUDDEN MASSIVE POWER SURGE IS TOO MUCH FOR SAURON TO WITHSTAND.
OOOOHHHH...WHO'S BEEN PLAYIN' PINBALL WITH MY HEAD?
AAYYII
WHAT THE--?!
YOU--SAURON!
I REMEMBER NOW. YOU TWISTED MY SKULL INSIDE-OUT, MADE ME TRY TO ACE THE X-MEN!
...CHANGING... THANK GOD...
I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO PEOPLE MUCKIN' WITH MY MIND, BUB!
ANY LAST REQUESTS?

STOP!
RELEASE MY FRIEND KARL LYKOS, COSTUMED ONE, OR FACE THE WRATH OF--
--KA-ZAR, LORD OF THE SAVAGE LAND!
RRAWRR!
THIS GUY OWES ME, BLONDIE--
--BUT SINCE HE'S YOUR BUDDY, I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE ON YOU AN' YOUR PUSSY-CAT, TOO.
HOLD IT! KA-ZAR, IT'S ME -- CYCLOPS!
I REMEMBER YOU, X-MAN. IN FACT, IT WAS YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS LYKOS AND I WERE ON OUR WAY TO SEE.
WE NEED YOUR HELP.
RRR?
BUB, YOU SURE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF ASKIN'. COOL IT, CAT. I'LL MAKE NICE WITH YOUR PAL.

IT TAKES QUITE A WHILE FOR SOME UNDERSTANDABLY HOT TEMPERS TO COOL.
EVEN SO, THE AIR IS THICK WITH TENSION WHEN EVERYONE GATHERS IN THE VILLAGE COUNCIL HOUSE, STORM AND WOLVERINE STILL LOOKING DAGGERS AT KARL LYKOS ACROSS THE FIRE.

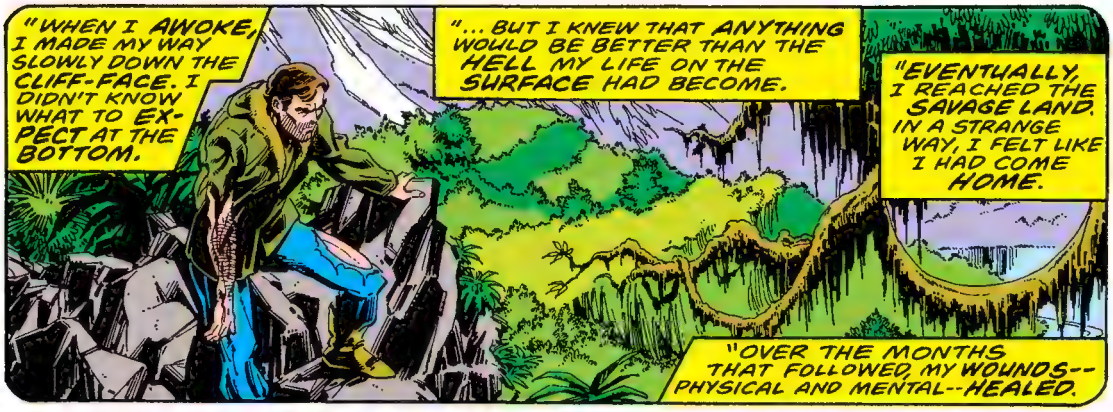
YOU SAID YOU NEED OUR HELP, KA-ZAR. WE'RE WAITING FOR AN EXPLANATION.
THE STORY BEGINS WITH ME, CYCLOPS...

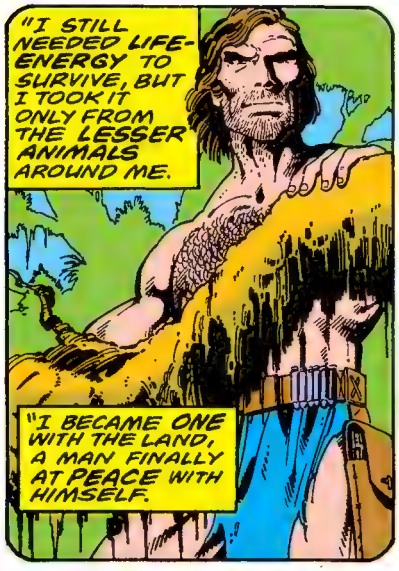

"...ON THE NIGHT YOU-- AND... OTHER X-MEN-- STOPPED ME FROM MURDERING THE FATHER OF THE WOMAN I LOVED.
"I WAS MAD, THEN...
"...CONSUMED BY THE EVIL SIDE OF ME THAT IS SAURON.

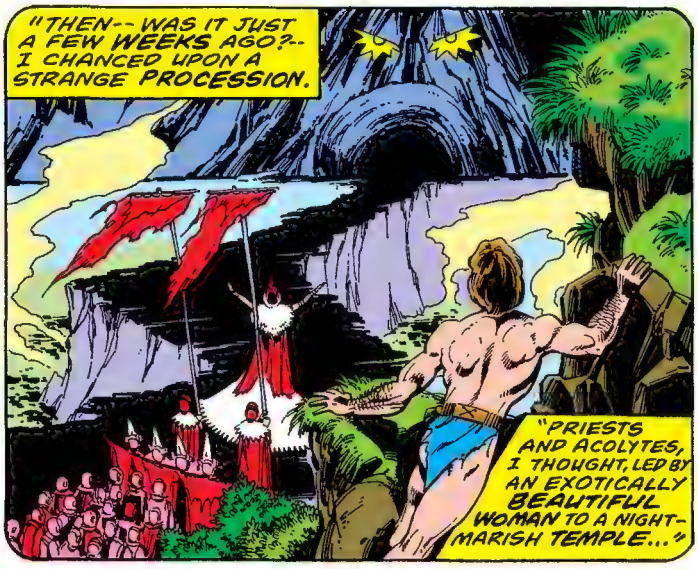

"TO DENY THAT EVIL I FLED...
... HALF-WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD, TO TIERRA DEL FUEGO. I HOPED TO DIE THERE.

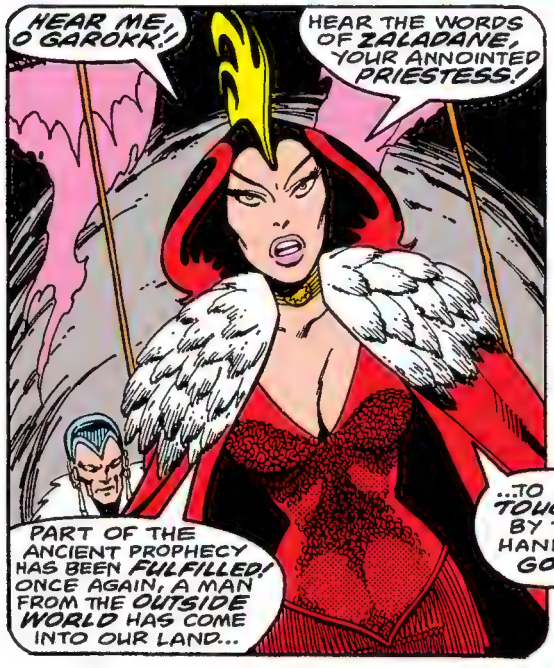
"BUT TANYA-- MY DEAR LOVE-- FOUND ME FIRST.
"RATHER THAN SURVIVE BY TAKING HER LIFE...
...I TRIED TO TAKE MY OWN. *
*X-MEN#61--ROG.

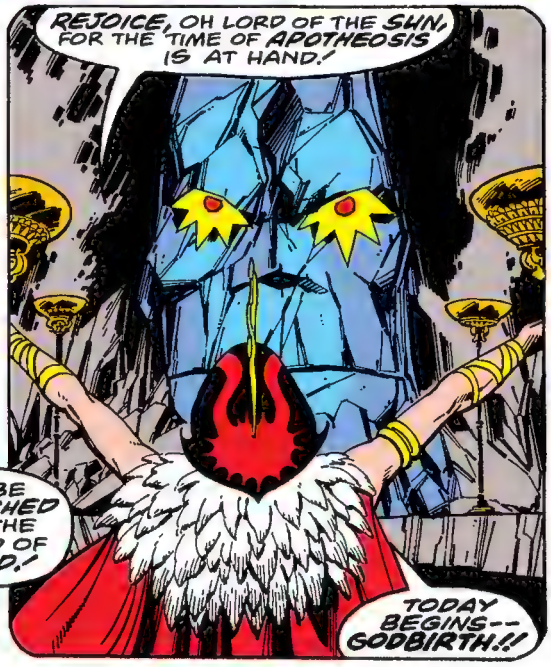
"YOU SAW ME FALL INTO THAT SEEMINGLY BOTTOMLESS CHASM. YOU DIDN'T SEE ME LAND-- SEMI-CONSCIOUS--ON A SMALL LEDGE A FEW METERS BELOW THE TOP.

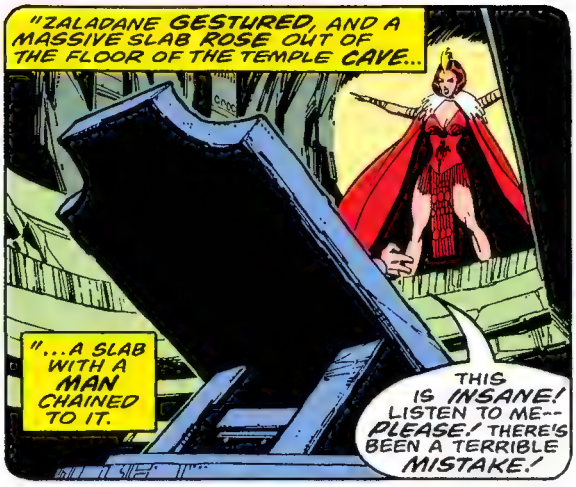

"WHEN I AWOKE, I MADE MY WAY SLOWLY DOWN THE CLIFF-FACE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE BOTTOM.
"... BUT I KNEW THAT ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THE HELL MY LIFE ON THE SURFACE HAD BECOME.
"EVENTUALLY, I REACHED THE SAVAGE LAND. IN A STRANGE WAY, I FELT LIKE I HAD COME HOME.
"OVER THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, MY WOUNDS--PHYSICAL AND MENTAL--HEALED.

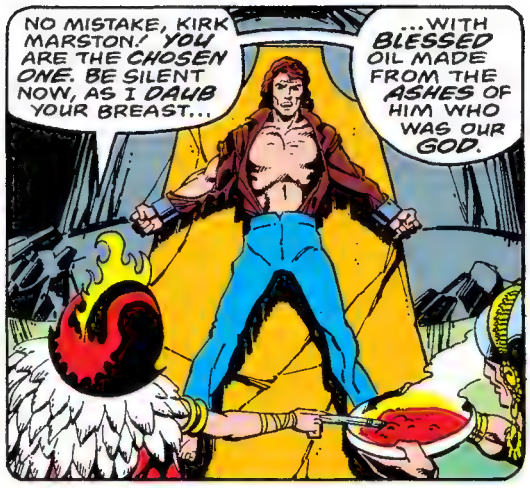

"I STILL NEEDED LIFE-ENERGY TO SURVIVE, BUT I TOOK IT ONLY FROM THE LESSER ANIMALS AROUND ME.
"I BECAME ONE WITH THE LAND, A MAN FINALLY AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF.


"THEN--WAS IT JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO?--I CHANCED UPON A STRANGE PROCESSION.
"PRIESTS AND ACOLYTES, I THOUGHT, LED BY AN EXOTICALLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN TO A NIGHT-MARISH TEMPLE..."

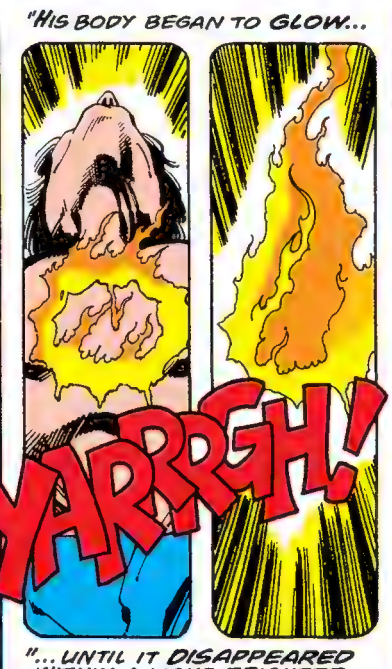

HEAR ME, O GAROKK!
HEAR THE WORDS OF ZALADANE, YOUR ANNOINTED PRIESTESS!
PART OF THE ANCIENT PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED! ONCE AGAIN, A MAN FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS COME INTO OUR LAND...
...TO BE TOUCHED BY THE HAND OF GOD!


REJOICE, OH LORD OF THE SUN, FOR THE TIME OF APOTHEOSIS IS AT HAND!
TODAY BEGINS--GODBIRTH!!


"ZALADANE GESTURED, AND A MASSIVE SLAB ROSE OUT OF THE FLOOR OF THE TEMPLE CAVE...
"...A SLAB WITH A MAN CHAINED TO IT.
THIS IS INSANE! LISTEN TO ME--PLEASE! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!

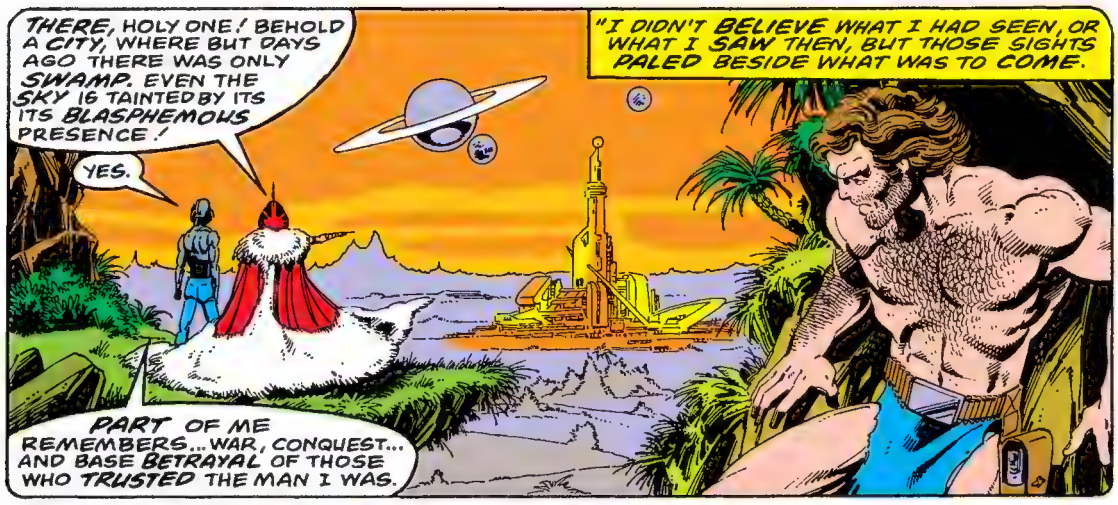

NO MISTAKE, KIRK MARSTON! YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE. BE SILENT NOW, AS I DAUB YOUR BREAST...
...WITH BLESSED OIL MADE FROM THE ASHES OF HIM WHO WAS OUR GOD.

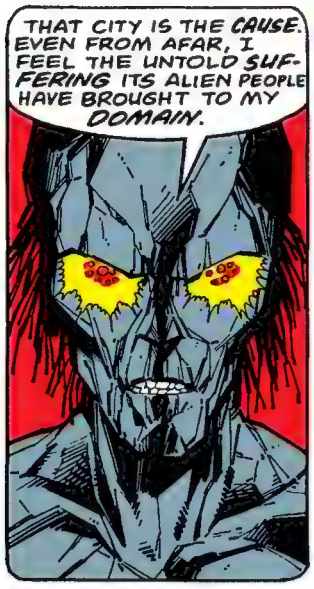
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! NO, PLEASE--NO!


"HIS BODY BEGAN TO GLOW...
YARRRGH!
"...UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED WITHIN A LIGHT BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN.

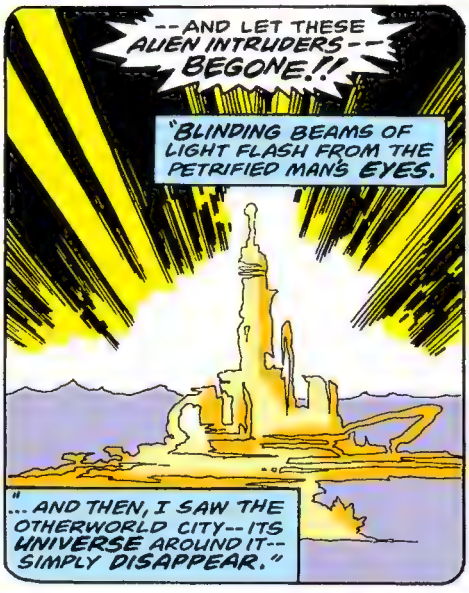
"AND WHEN THAT GLOW FADED..."
WHAT... MADNESS IS THIS?!
I... DIED, CONSUMED BY THE STAR-BORN FIRES THAT GAVE ME BIRTH. YET NOW... THE PETRIFIED MAN...LIVES!

WELCOME, HOLY ONE.
I, ZALADANE, YOUR PRIESTESS, SUMMONED YOU FROM THE SHADOW KINGDOM! DEATH--AND WORSE--NOW STALK THE SAVAGE LAND...
...YOUR PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR YOU.
I SENSE...BOTH TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD IN YOUR WORDS, WOMAN.
YOU SPEAK OF DEATH AND WORSE THAN DEATH--SHOW ME!

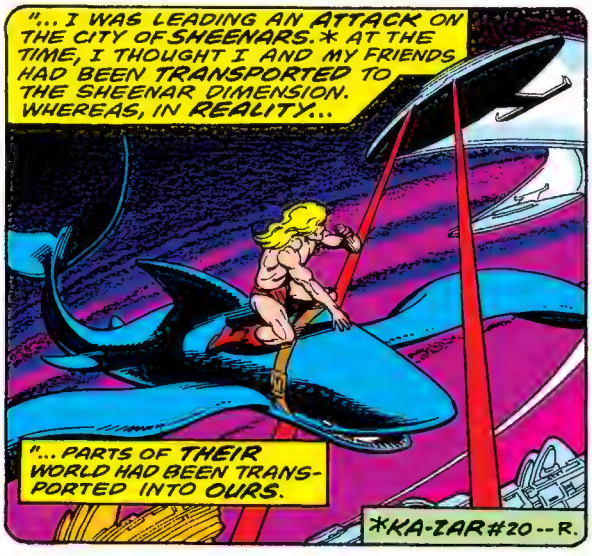

THERE, HOLY ONE! BEHOLD A CITY, WHERE BUT DAYS AGO THERE WAS ONLY SWAMP. EVEN THE SKY IS TAINTED BY ITS ITS BLASPHEMOUS PRESENCE!
YES.
PART OF ME REMEMBERS... WAR, CONQUEST... AND BASE BETRAYAL OF THOSE WHO TRUSTED THE MAN I WAS.
"I DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HAD SEEN, OR WHAT I SAW THEN, BUT THOSE SIGHTS PALED BESIDE WHAT WAS TO COME.

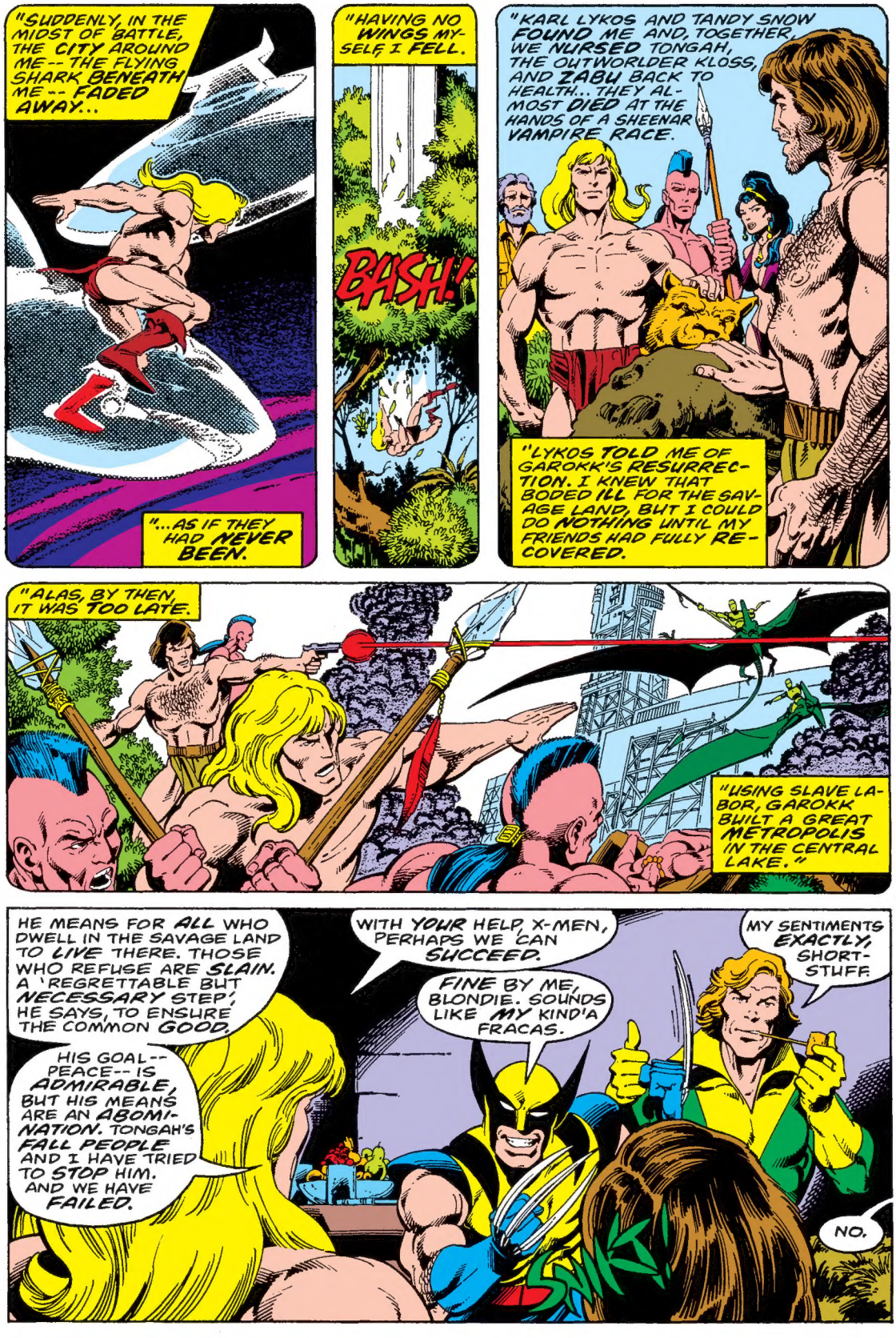

THAT CITY IS THE CAUSE. EVEN FROM AFAR, I FEEL THE UNTOLD SUFFERING ITS ALIEN PEOPLE HAVE BROUGHT TO MY DOMAIN.

THEY SHALL BRING NO MORE!
BY MY SOUL, LET THIS MADMAN'S CONFLICT END--


--AND LET THESE ALIEN INTRUDERS--- BEGONE!!
"BLINDING BEAMS OF LIGHT FLASH FROM THE PETRIFIED MAN'S EYES.
... AND THEN, I SAW THE OTHERWORLD CITY--ITS UNIVERSE AROUND IT--SIMPLY DISAPPEAR."

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT. SOMEHOW, HE MANIPULATED A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL WARP, LIKE A SCULPTOR MOLDING CLAY.
IN MANY WAYS, MY FRIEND, GAROKK-- THE PETRIFIED MAN-- IS INDEED LIKE UNTO A GOD.
THE NIGHT HE WAS REBORN...


"... I WAS LEADING AN ATTACK ON THE CITY OF SHEENARS.* AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT I AND MY FRIENDS HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE SHEENAR DIMENSION. WHEREAS, IN REALITY...
"... PARTS OF THEIR WORLD HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED INTO OURS.
*KA-ZAR #20 -- R.


"SUDDENLY, IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE, THE CITY AROUND ME -- THE FLYING SHARK BENEATH ME -- FADED AWAY...
"...AS IF THEY HAD NEVER BEEN.
"HAVING NO WINGS MYSELF, I FELL.
BASH!
"KARL LYKOS AND TANDY SNOW FOUND ME AND, TOGETHER, WE NURSED TONGAH, THE OUTWORLDER KLOSS, AND ZABU BACK TO HEALTH.. THEY ALMOST DIED AT THE HANDS OF A SHEENAR VAMPIRE RACE.
"LYKOS TOLD ME OF GAROKK'S RESURRECTION. I KNEW THAT BODED ILL FOR THE SAVAGE LAND, BUT I COULD DO NOTHING UNTIL MY FRIENDS HAD FULLY RECOVERED.
"ALAS, BY THEN, IT WAS TOO LATE.
"USING SLAVE LABOR, GAROKK BUILT A GREAT METROPOLIS IN THE CENTRAL LAKE."
HE MEANS FOR ALL WHO DWELL IN THE SAVAGE LAND TO LIVE THERE. THOSE WHO REFUSE ARE SLAIN. A 'REGRETTABLE BUT NECESSARY STEP', HE SAYS, TO ENSURE THE COMMON GOOD.
HIS GOAL -- PEACE -- IS ADMIRABLE, BUT HIS MEANS ARE AN ABOMINATION. TONGAH'S FALL PEOPLE AND I HAVE TRIED TO STOP HIM. AND WE HAVE FAILED.
WITH YOUR HELP, X-MEN, PERHAPS WE CAN SUCCEED.
FINE BY ME, BLONDIE. SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND'A FRACAS.
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, SHORT-STUFF.
NO.
SNIKT!

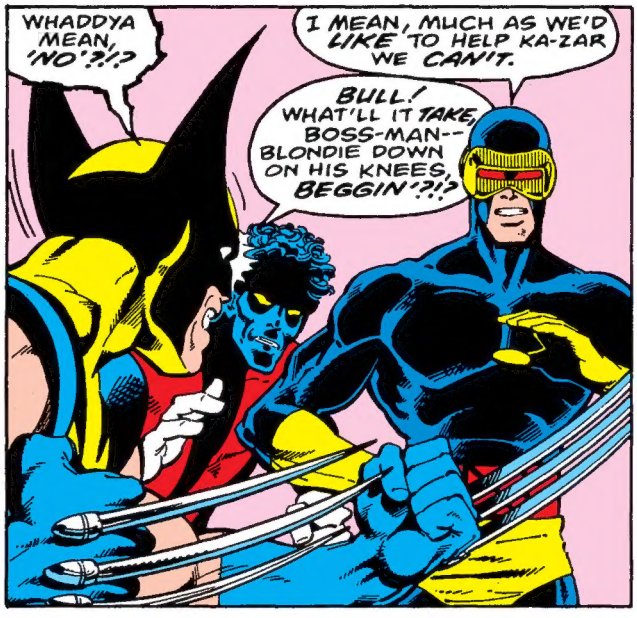
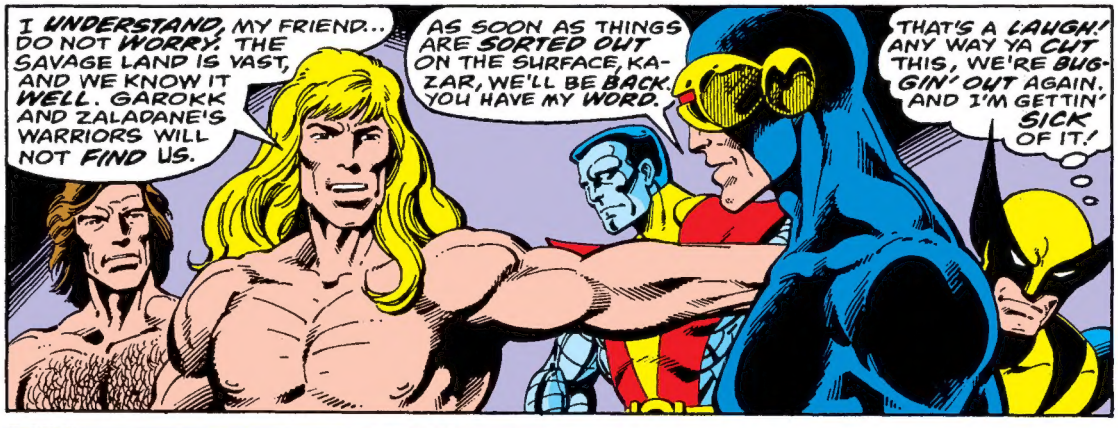
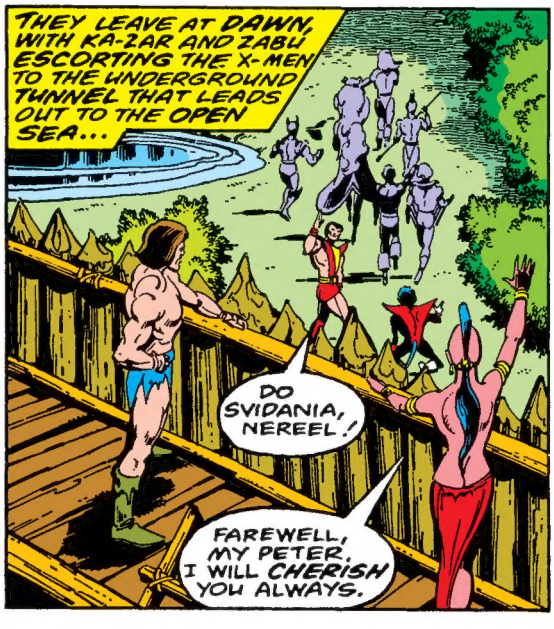
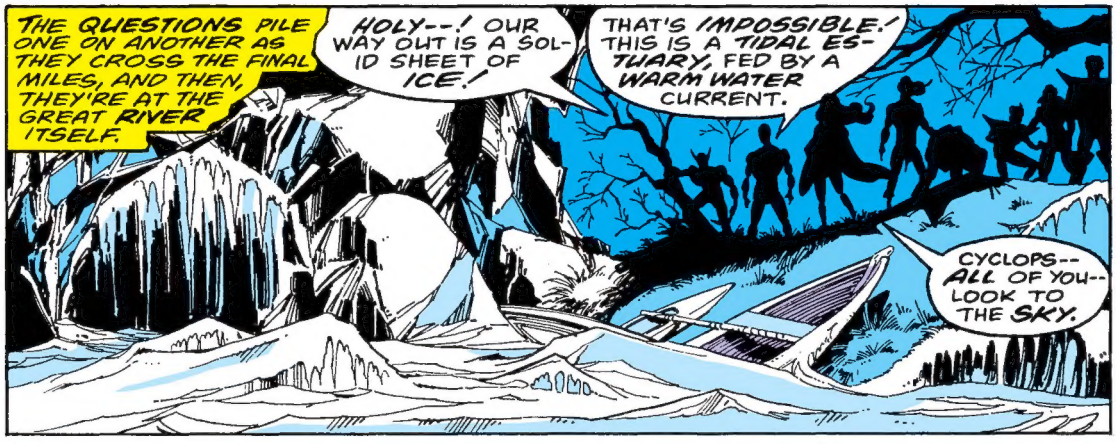

WHADDYA MEAN, 'NO'?!?
I MEAN, MUCH AS WE'D LIKE TO HELP KA-ZAR WE CAN'T.
BULL! WHAT'LL IT TAKE, BOSS-MAN-- BLONDIE DOWN ON HIS KNEES, BEGGIN'?!?

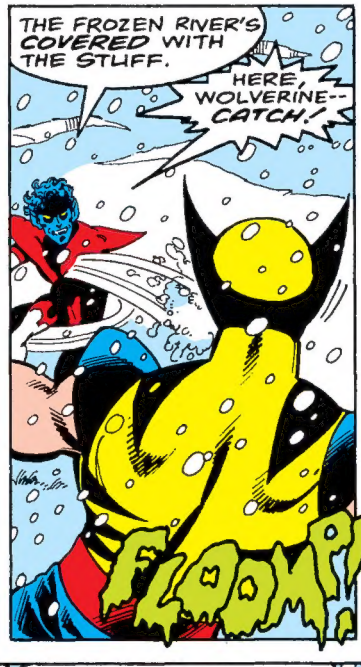
FIGURE IT FOR YOURSELF, WOLVERINE. WE SURVIVED THE VOLCANO.* WHAT IF MAGNETO DID, TOO? HIS NEXT TARGET WOULD BE PROFESSOR X.
I'M SORRY, BUT OUR FIRST DUTY IS TO THE PROFESSOR.
*X-MEN # 113-- R.S.

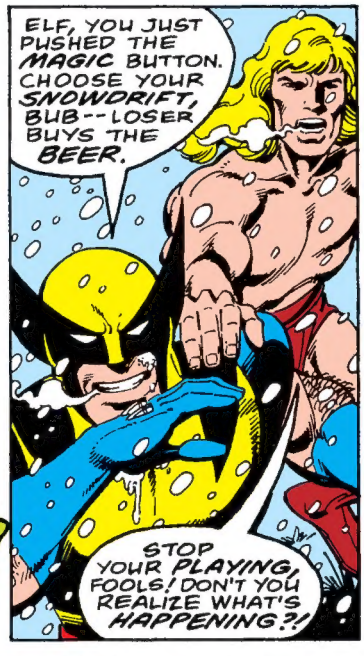

I UNDERSTAND, MY FRIEND... DO NOT WORRY. THE SAVAGE LAND IS VAST, AND WE KNOW IT WELL. GAROKK AND ZALADANE'S WARRIORS WILL NOT FIND US.
AS SOON AS THINGS ARE SORTED OUT ON THE SURFACE, KA-ZAR, WE'LL BE BACK. YOU HAVE MY WORD.
THAT'S A LAUGH! ANY WAY YA CUT THIS, WE'RE BUGGIN' OUT AGAIN. AND I'M GETTIN' SICK OF IT!

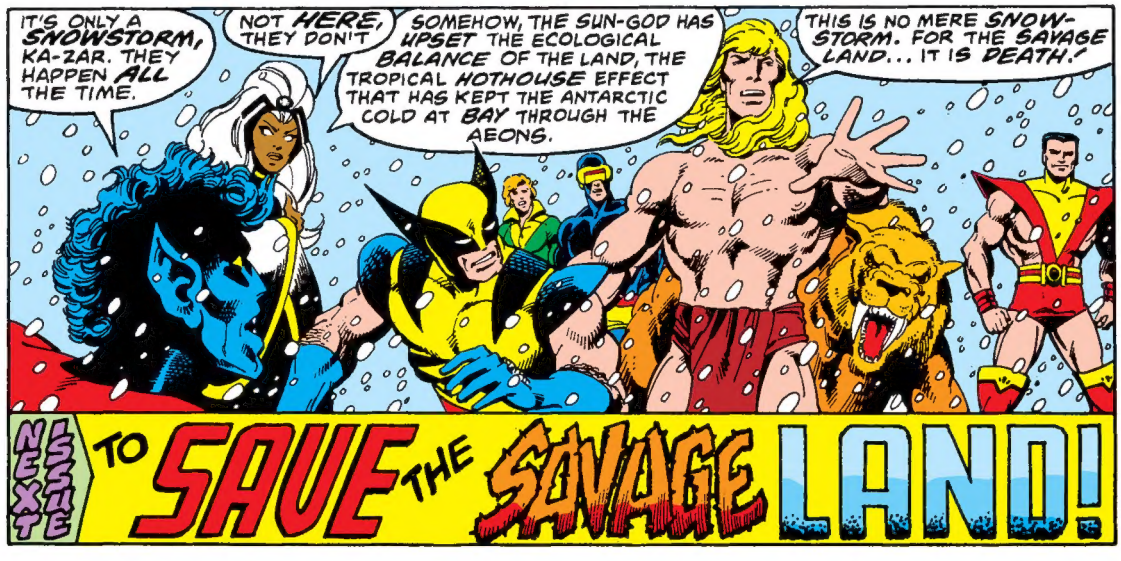

THEY LEAVE AT DAWN, WITH KA-ZAR AND ZABU ESCORTING THE X-MEN TO THE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL THAT LEADS OUT TO THE OPEN SEA...
DO SVIDANIA, NEREEL!
FAREWELL, MY PETER. I WILL CHERISH YOU ALWAYS.

BY LATE AFTERNOON, THEY'RE NEAR THE CAVERN ENTRANCE...
CYCLOPS, THE TREES-- EVERYTHING LOOKS WITHERED, AS IF BY A SUDDEN KILLER FROST.
I CAN SEE MY BREATH. THE AIR'S TURNED COLD.









NEXT ISSUE TO SAVE THE SAVAGE LAND!

MINUTEMEN

Sy13nt
Bob